

Grandview Mo.
Dec 31, 1910.

My Dear Bessie:-

I am very glad you liked the book. I liked it so well myself I nearly kept it.

I saw it advertised in "Life" and remembered that you were fond of Scott when we went to school.

Nothing would please me better than to come to see you during the holidays or any other time for

the matter of that, but papa hope
his leg the other day and I am
chief nurse next to my mother
besides being farm boss now.

So you see I'll be somewhat
closely confined for some time
to come. I hope you'll let
the invitation be a standing
one though and I shall avail
myself of it at the very first
opportunity.

I guess Ethel & Nellie have
been busy with their exams

is the reason you have n't
seen them. I got a letter from
Ethel the other day saying she
was suffering so from examining
both mental & physical and from
"epizootic" (whatever that is) that
she and Nellie would be unable
to come out this week. You
know they always spend a
few days at Christmas out
here. It was just as well
as I would have had to

cancel their date anyway after
papa's accident. We have not quite
got over the excitement yet. A
horse pulled a big beam over
on him in the barn. We were so
glad he wasn't killed we didn't
know what to do.

If you see fit to let me
hear from you sometimes I
shall certainly appreciate it. Farm
life as an every day affair is not
generally exciting. Wishing you and
all of you the very happiest New
Year. I am very sincerely
Harry S. Truman

Grandview, Mo.
April 1, 1911.

Dear Bessie:-

April Fool Day. Mamma says it is always customary to send blank sheets of paper today instead of written ones. Well perhaps you'd rather get the blank ones but I am going to fill these, and spoil the spirit of the day.

You see I have been sewing rats all week got done Thursday night and hauled about six tons of hay yesterday. My face is a sight as the girls say. You know the wind blew something

"fierce" last Tuesday + Wednesday and the sun also had some effect. Between ^{them} I look like ran before a confirmed foot fighter. My voice is also somewhat weary from yelling at the horses. You know we drive four plugs to a drill - have them abreast. It is an impossibility to have four with inclinations alike. I had four whose names may be some index to their character. William, Samuel, Jane + X. X is a bone - if you know what that is - and he has an insane desire to arrive at the other end of the field in the shortest possible time. You dare not touch him with a whip or let him hear one if you can help. William - Bill we call him of course, is an ex-buggy horse. He hasn't much idea of work but to get out of it if he can. I yell at him in my sleep sometimes. When I am not following Bill, Bill goes on, I am saying the same to Sam. Sam is a very large ex-day horse and he never hurries under any consideration unless I poke him with a sharp stick or land on him with a baling wire whip. Jane, as Mrs. Barclay would say is just right. She goes as she should.

Well when I land on Sam & Bill
Jane and X want to run away.
So I have to take it out in lung
work and unpunctable narves. You
can just bet that I am glad I'm
done. I always saw Virians and
mine too. This time I sowed seventy acres
in five days. That is moving some.
Virian is well and has been hauling
hay for me while I sowed his oats.
(I do wish I had your new bottle of ink.)
Did you get an invitation the High
School reception for Prof Bryant? I did
but I can't go. I have a previous
engagement to a tacky party. I am

going as I usually go when at home and I let I take the cake.

My very best friends would refuse to recognize me if they ever saw me in town in my farm rags.

They are dirty and tattered & torn with hog snout marks, splashed milk and other things too numerous to mention in their make up. You ask Ethel what a pretty figure I cut when I pretend to work. Nanna ropes me in once in while and makes me exchange for a clean set, but they don't feel right until I wear them a day or two.

I am glad your "umbell" is as useful as well as a mental article. You know they generally are not both.

I would certainly be glad to attend church with you in Independence and hear your choir.

I guess you ~~last~~ will have a fine time at the river tomorrow morning. I have not been down on those bluffs since I was a time keeper for L. J. Smith. You know I was once a hobo paymaster. Not a pleasant job either.

I am sorry to hear of Miss Dicie's illness but I guess she'll soon recover. Lively people are never sick long. I hope your mother is well by this time. Our whole family is in good health. Papa only has to hop on crutches but he'll soon be over that.

You say you have gone back to W. D. Howells, well I have never come to him yet. He must be all right for he was a particular friend of Mark Twain's. It's huck I guess but I have never read one of his books. I certainly did enjoy the

'Mistress of Sherstone'. I have read
The Rosary since I read it and
they are both good. I have also
been reading the history of Jenghiz
Khan the Tartar. He is the only
great man in history who had
no effect on American History ac-
cording to Miss Phelps. You know
she began with Adam and came
down. But I never heard of Jenghiz
till recently. Well I am wound up
but shall quit here. Please write
me when you have the time and
enjoy your letter very much I am

Sincerely
Harry

Grandmère Mo
May 17. 1911.

Dear Bessie:-

I am sitting up at the desk today writing this and it makes me feel alot more independent. Crutches are certainly the most inconvenient convenience I have ever run up against. You've no idea how experience teaches sympathy. I have thought a many a time that some of the antics of people on crutches were unnecessary to say the least. I don't think so now. It really takes an expert to accomplish anything with them.

It is necessary for me to wear my work overalls because I can't get my plaster cast through the leg of mine. He weighs 240 and a large part of his weight is around the waist. You can imagine the beautiful people I make. I don't care for looks now though I want to get out of bed and I'd almost wear a dress to do it.

I certainly thank you for the book you sent. It is fine. I have n't quite finished it yet. I sent you a copy of life by Ethel. It is so good. I thought that I couldn't keep it all to myself. I had wrapped it for mailing when Ethel and Aunt Ella showed up. I hope you had n't seen it. The center cartoon is particularly entrancing. I should certainly like the opportunity of being a joyrider. I really don't think I'd be one, but I'd just like to have the means to be one.

I was very glad to see Ethel and so I didn't attempt to remark her back hair as I had threatened to do. Anyway I don't believe I could have done it just yet so I let well enough alone. She was perfectly willing for me to try.

You said Frank was anxious to go to Mexico. You tell him he'd better stay out of Greasdom right now anyway. If a fellow

could go as the rear guard of a victorious
American army it would be all
right but right now the chances
are good that he'd stop a bullet. I
am like Mark Twain. He says that
if fame is to be obtained only by
marching to the canon's mouth he is
perfectly willing to go there provided
the canon is empty, if it is loaded
he'd get over the fence and go home.
Some times the canon's breech is as
dangerous as it's mouth. A member
of the Battery got his fingers connected
with the breech block on one of those
3 inch guns not long ago and left
one of them in the gun. I think I
shall quit the military stunt in June

My time is out then. I have been a member for six years and have had lots of fun learned a little bit and made some friends so I guess I'd better quit while I am all in one piece. Out at Ft Riley once while the outfit was out there a shell exploded at the mouth of the gun and killed seven or eight who were standing too far front. So you see a person is not absolutely safe either in front or behind the gun. Mark's advice is best.

One of mamma's cousins is visiting us now who was in the real Confederate Army. He was at the Battle of Vicksburg and Corinth and also up here at the Battle of Gettysburg. He

thinks that Gen. Price was the greatest man
that ever lived. Of all the hair lifting war
takes Cousin Will can sure contribute his
share. It really seems funny that in this
very country even right where we live
people should have been afraid to go any-
where unless there was several together.
Then maybe the Redlegs or Bushwhackers
would kill them. Grandmother once
routed a whole band of Indians with
a big dog. She was all alone except for
a negro woman and two of her children.
These Indians told her they wanted
honey and if she did n't give it they would
take it and her too. So they sharpened their
knives on the grinding stone and then she
tied loose a large dog. Away went Indians
some leaving their blankets. If I had been
Grandma I'd have disappeared out the
front way when they came up the back.
But she did n't and finally made them go.
I guess you'll think this is a mighty
tiresome attempt at a letter but it is the
best I can do today. I read some Chinese
Be-try this morning and I guess that is
the reason I can't do any better. It

was rendered into English but even
then it sounded as bad as the
hen tracks they make for writing
look. So if this is too dull to read
I hope you'll consider that you
owe me a letter for it anyway.

I want to thank you again
for The Distress of Slenstone
as I sure enjoyed it and so did
the rest of us.

I hope your calico chickens will be
a success and I am really glad
you didn't have to use that awful
dip. Virian has to dip chickens out here.
I eat them. Well write when you can
and if I land that machine I'll
try and use it right Sincerely
Harry.

Grand River Mo.

June 16 1911

Dear Bessie:-

This is the ninth day
and I have finished that job.
I am looking for good luck. I
hope we get rain any way. If
I just had a horse that was equal
to the drive this hot weather I'd
certainly make Independence, but
I have n't and my auto friends al-
ways want to take me the op-
posite direction. They generally come
and get me when they have an

errand to do. I wouldn't ask one of them to take me anywhere because they always think they confer a magnificent favor on any one they ride around. When I can throw my sticks away street cars will be good enough for me. I think I can get rid of them in a few days. A new Masonic Lodge is being organized at our town and they have given me the principle office. I have the big head terribly. The deputy Grand Master was out to see me Wednesday night and handed me an awful lot of hot air. I have n't quite recovered from the effects yet.

Do you really think Minnie would want the clock set back now? I thought it usually took some time before they wished things undone. They tell me that the first few months she can burn the biscuit every morning if she chooses and it's all right, but after that she learns what a good cook her ma in law was. And the first few months he can be as no account and good for nothing as he wants to be but he soon learns how his pa in law made his money.

Then its ho for Reno or South Dakota.
It is certainly awful what pessimists
those two places have made of people.
I am a Catholic when it comes to
divorce. I believe people could generally
settle thier difference if they weren't
so all fired selfish.

I guess you do miss Frank. I bet
you he don't find any surplus wheat.
We'll probably eat corn bread this season.
That is provided it rains every in
time for corn. I hope he has a
good time while he is gone.

We are living on bread and bacon
with some canned goods thrown in.
I can sympathize with those western

rummies now who can never
raise a garden. Ours is a total
failure. We had one measly little mess
of peas and there was more soup than
peas then. One of our neighbors who
has a big orchard says that all the
apples are falling off green. I am
doing the usual farmer act now.
They are always starving to death.

It looks as if Columbus was going
to smear it on the Blue don't it?
I'd like to see one of the games be-
tween them. What are you doing to pass
this hot weather? I have been spending
my time at Grandview in order to
keep from reading my eyes out.

Augusta) Evans Wilson has been
entertaining me with The Speckled
Bird. Mrs Wilson, Mary J Holmes and
Mrs Southworth are so stiffed and
pim that they are actually ridiculous
I can't bear them if I can get some-
thing else. I'll even read Geo Elliott
on the Essay of Marcus Aurelius. I am
going to work now very soon. It seems
good to loaf when you can't but when
you have to it is disgusting. I hope
you'll consider that you owe me a
letter as I ask after every mail to see
if you've sent me one. I wonder how
Ethel likes the "job" I gave her? Write
when you can to
Sincerely yours
Harry.

Grandview, Mo.
Dec 21, 1911

Dear Bessie:-

You cheated me out of
two pages. Aren't you ashamed? If
you only knew how glad I am
to get them you wouldn't be so
short with them. I suppose I am
too crazy about you anyway. Every
time I see you I get more so if
it is possible. I know I haven't
any right to but there are certain
things that can't be helped and
that is one of them. I wouldn't
help it if I could you know.
I guess you are lucky that you

don't care as been the best of fellows, which I am not, couldn't say well make a girl happy on nothing a week and a hat full of debts. You see I was fool enough or good enough whichever way you look at it to go in with daddy ever on his debts. Say don't ever mention that as no one knows he has any especially his relatives. See?

Really though if I thought you cared I bet I could win out anyway in spite of all the kin in creation.

This is a mighty poor Christmas letter but our dear relatives have succeeded in giving us the thurst Christmas since Grandmother died. If you could see the allegations in the paper you'd think my mother was the prime lady villain. It makes me so mad I could fight a boiler maker. They even accused our grandmother of being weak minded and most every thing else when she was the best business woman I ever expect to see. I wish she meantioned property to her that itself, would have finished us as it should have done.

Well, if my dear new friends who invited themselves to dinner here Christmas go home on the afternoon train I am

going to try and see you Christ
mas evening if you are at home.
I'll call if I can or if I can't
about five thirty. But don't stay at
home on my account because I
may not get to come. I'll bring
you a copy of Richelieu if I come.
I got Edwin Booth's prompt copy
for fifteen cents. It's a stunning
play I tell you. Mamma and Mary are
going to see Julius in the afternoon
May I you like into there.

I sent you a piece of tin jewelry
the other day. I got it some time ago
but found a rusted link in the chain
and had to have it renewed so when
I got it again I just sent it that's
why so early. With a very Christmas Love
as always your Harry.

Dear Bess:-

I missed the car all right. Also the Southern. I didn't care much because it wasn't necessary for me to get up until 8:30 to catch the Frisco. Papa was in a horrible stew. He was sure I'd been knocked on the head or fallen in the creek. When I told him I'd missed the car he had another fit. It's awful when a person gets to be such a prejudicator that people won't believe the truth when it's told to them.

I have been cleaning seed to show at Grandview tomorrow. We have about 50 bu of clover seed to sell

I cleaned a peck so beautifully that
it's simply a perfect sample. If any
body buys seed from us on the strength
of that peck he'll be sorely disappointed
when he gets his seed. I wouldn't spend
so much time cleaning it for sale.
It would be just as good only there'd
be some dirt and trash left in it.
We have a peck of wheat, the same amount
of oats and timothy seed to show along
with the clover. They are all extra fine
because I spent some three hours
cleaning them. I suppose there'll be a
big crowd at the show. I expect to have
a very busy day. You'd think I was run-
ning for office if you'd see me chasing
around shaking hands with people and dis-
playing a classic eat grin. I will sim-
ply be acting as one of the Turp committee
to show people around.

I suppose you had a fine game
of tennis today. The weather has been
ideal if it'll only keep up. Mary has
gone riding on Ben. We are going to
lend a couple of horses to girls in
Grandview and then have a riding

contest. If you'd have come
to our fair you might have
~~won~~ the five dollars for the
best lady rider. You could have
ridden Ben. I am hoping to be
one of the judges in that contest
so I can tie the ribbon on a
pony and then laugh at daddy
because his fine horse got beaten.
He'd never get over it and Uncle
Harrison would simply go
straight up. I fear I'd have to
leave home if I did the trick.
I saw an overcoat down town
this morning just like I want
but I won't get it. Why? Because
it was 75⁰⁰. I can use three

at that price and still have money left.

You were most awful nice about the other girl but don't suppose there is ever be one. If a fellow can pick his idol at ten and still be loyal to that thirty there's not much danger of his finding another. One or two of my Aunties and good motion friends have sought to arrange things for me several times but could never understand why they never had any luck. Maybe they will live long. How does it feel being engaged to a chad hopper who has ambitions to be Governor of Mont. and Chief Executive

of U.S. He'll do well if he gets to be a
retired farmer. That was sure a good
dream though and I have them in the
day time even right along the same line.
It looks like an uphill business
sometimes though. But I intend to
keep peggin' away and I suppose I'll
arrive at something. You'll never be
sorry if you take me for better or
for worse because I'll always try
to make it better.

I am hoping to see you Wednesday
evening. I suppose mamma and
I will have to be present at Aunt
Susan's quilting. If she'll only stick
to the truth I won't mind but if she
does like the rest I am sure will hate
to be present. One hates to see a
white haired old lady one he likes and
respects tearing up the truth just for
a few dollars. It has a tendency to
make a pessimist out of a person.

I like money as well as anyone but
I think I'd do without it if I had to
cast aspersions on my mother's
character to get it. I suppose

you are tired of hearing me
hang on our old suit but
it means so much to us
if we lose than I can't help
it. You owe me a letter
anyway and I hope it'll
come early. You'd better send
it if you don't want me to have
another spasm in the middle
of the week like I did last
time.

Most sincerely
Harry.

Dear Bess:-

I am two days late on the letter but I guess you have some slight idea as to the reason. I have been endeavouring to haul to push and auto. My head is rather thick I suppose. Anyway I'm not an expert chuffer as yet. It is to be hoped that there will be some improvement by Sunday. Have had a puncture already, killed the engine. Turns without number and got the batteries all worn out by running on them. It is as old man Fred remarked, when you have an auto there is nothing

else to cuss about. Your mind is entirely occupied cussing the auto. I managed to get up Dodson Hill on high and then killed the engine getting up about a two percent grade. There ^{is} only one thing I can brag about and that is that I can stay in the road. Got by some thousands of telegraph poles without disaster and then ran over a horse shoe full of nails. You can imagine the result of that.

Have you recovered from the big dose of music? I made the KCS Shuntel alright. It was exactly on time and I only waited about three minutes. Mary arrived the next morning and all she could do was talk music and auto. She has an insane desire to drive. She'll soon get it gratified for it's not much pleasure to me to drive. It's an awful amount of bother.

It is as I told you it would be when the ~~car~~ car came home. It is raining like Sam Hill this morning, and papa wanted me to drive here to Independence! What a awful what

the weather can spoil sometimes.
He's seems to be fairly well pleased
with the purchase. So does Uncle
Harry but neither of them are very
anxious to let loose of any money.
Papa is starting to the big town up
the hill and. I'll have to quit in order
to get this mailed. I hope to arrive
in Independence Sunday afternoon
if nothing busts. Please don't expect
the arrival too early but I'll get
there some time if I have to take
the train! Send me a letter this
week sure I'm behind almost two.
Did you get the special. May mailed?
Sincerely Harry.

Dear Bess:-

I got your letter this morning and Jean tells you I most certainly appreciated it. I am very glad you like the flowers and only wish they could have been more.

If I could have been in town I'd have sent you some fresh ones every day.

I am hoping that you'll be up very soon so I can get to see you. It has been so long since I last

saw you that it seems like a year.
If you don't hurry and get well
Mr Warfield is going to get by. They
tell me that Blanche King is as
fine as ever at the Opheum.

I have finally succeeded in getting
Uncle Harry home. He remarked when
he got here that he was either
awful sick or awful drunk or a.

It was a combination. The doctor
has succeeded in getting him
sober and we hope to keep him that
way for some time to come.

I was in the city Saturday and it
did seem entirely wrong not to
go to Independence anyway. I
sent you a little bunch of home
grown sweet violets. They told me that
they are more fragrant than the
California variety. I like violets better
than any other kind of flowers both to
eat and to look at. I shall try

and send you some more
before the ~~thick~~ is out.

We are having a most lovely
snow out this way. I am
hoping it keeps up. Mrs Chas
H Lester has asked Mary and
me to come out there to dinner
tomorrow evening but I fail
to see how I'm going to make
it over roads like they are now.
Old Liz has a't been out since
Thursday when I brought the
Harry home. This is the
longest rest she's had for

some time. I've got to put
her back in the factory. She
is suffering from a nose
knock than me. It seems
that experts are experts only
in getting money out of people.
They expert an engine all
to pieces and do it up again
only to find it not run
any better than it would
before. They also charged me
up with 30 hours labor at
75¢ an hour. I don't know

how they got it in as the car
was only there a day and a half.
Charging and getting are two alto-
gether different processes. I am
going to jaw with them some more
if I have to pay in the end.

I am supposed to take active charge
of the Post Office today but I have not
done it. The thing is a white elephant
on my hands. Every person in Grand-
maison who could possibly run the
thing has asked me for the privilege
of doing it. I have had the efficiency
gag, the poor widow who is the
only support of her family, the plain
easy money one and every other
hand down on me to get the job.
I have so far turned a deaf ear to
all of them and allowed the log
I promised it to to keep it. There is
no telling what I may do if they
keep on. Political promises are a good

any way and I may heck
mine yet. I have an idea
that I'll simply resign and
let em fight it out all over
again among themselves.

I am hoping to see you before
the week goes by again. When
you get well you're simply got
to give me another picture of you
self so I can have one downstairs
and one up. It's right unhandy
to chase up stairs every day to see
how you look. Here's hoping to
see the original before long.

Most sincerely Harry.

HOTEL RUTH

Rates \$1.25 per day

J. S. DENTON, PROP.

" March 15 1916
Commerce, Okla.,

Dear Bess:-

I am stopping as you see at the best hotel in town. Mr. Hughes and I have to occupy the same room. The partition walls are just boxing with paper over them. We are in Room 9 at the west end of the hall. We dare not whisper because the show girls in room 1 at the other end of the hall can hear us. It is a first class hotel when it comes to eats and it is far above the street when it comes to sleeping.

There will be a house at the T.C. & H Mining Co's property very soon and then we'll live in comfort. The mine is going to be all right. We have as good or better dirt than our

HOTEL RUTH

Rates \$1.25 per day

J. S. DENTON, Prop.

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Commerce, Okla., _____ 191__

neighbors. I was down in it today.

Three men are working down there getting things in shape to raise sand (or I mean) by next Monday. We are not going any deeper just yet because there is plenty of good zinc in sight to make a bin full of ore without much expense. That's only \$24000.00 worth. Maybe next time I write the floated thing will have gone dry. They do sometimes. The new part of the mill will be done by Saturday, that is the building will. The thing won't have the wheels going round until the next Saturday. That's the day I've planned to come home. Hope to have things humming so my eyes'll really shine for two seasons when

HOTEL RUTH

Rates \$1.25 per day

J. S. DENTON, Prop.

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Commerce, Okla., _____ 191

I see you. We have a good mine boss and I hope a good manager. One man told me he is all right and another said he'd steal the ~~It~~ ~~has~~ off the engine if we leave him with it. I am going to make a special trip to ~~Wet~~ ~~Wet~~ Friday to look him up. I suppose I should have done that first. He looks honest and he acts honest but so do I, therefore I'm going to find out.

What at Grandview, who is a contractor told me that he was under the impression for a long time that I was ~~was~~ a gentleman of the cloth, a preacher. If I can only retain that holy look I can sell the mine by the true spy route

HOTEL RUTH

Rates \$1.25 per day

J. S. DENTON, Prop.

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Commerce, Okla.,

191

and get rich any way. I'm going to buy me a checked suit and a cane if I win and I'll let I'll over come my sanctified way.

Mr Hughes is nagging me to quit writing and write him a check so he can go to bed I guess I'll have to do it but I don't want to.

Please write me a long letter for I'll sure be home sick before I see you again. Will write again Saturday or sooner if you like.

Most sincerely
Harry.

My address is Commerce Okla
Gen. Del.

Dear Bess:-

It was my intention to see you at the Cyphers today but Uncle Harrison was taken sick yesterday and I had to stay up all night last night so therefore I must stay at home.

The mine has gone by the board. I have lost out on it entirely. If Uncle Harry had not been sick I should have gone down there Tuesday evening. It is a set back from which I don't suppose I shall very soon recover. If I don't lose all the live stock

I lose it will only be because I shall turn it over to mamma. I shall join the class who can't sign checks of their own I suppose. It is a hard nut to crack but it has to be done. There was never one of our name who had sense enough to make money. I am no exception.

I shall endeavor to make the farm go as usual but I'll have to stay on it. My finances are completely exhausted and I suppose they'll remain so for some months to come. Perhaps at some future date I'll get a mine(?) or something that will make money.

We are very uneasy about Uncle Harry. It would just be our luck for him to die now and leave everything he has in a mess. It is to be expected.

I hope you will have some patience with me and let me come down some times. (When I have the car fare). You would do better perhaps if you pitch me into the ash heap and pick some one with

more sense and ~~that~~ ability and
not such a soft head. My position
seems to be that of plowing a
mule up a corn row rather than
directing the centers of finance. I
hope I never send you another
letter as foolish as this one but
I thought I ought to tell you
and if Uncle Harry does not
improve I'll have to stay with
him.

Very sincerely
Harry

Friday.

MORGAN & COMPANY

OIL INVESTMENTS

SUITE 703 NEW RIDGE ARCADE

KANSAS CITY, MO..

NOV 16 1916

Dear Boss:-

As you can see I am fulfilling my promise to send you a letter from the office of the above company.

I am simply on needles points today waiting for a wire from Morgan. I have one from him saying that he had wired New York for confirmation of the \$3,000,000 Healdton deal we are on, and that he is expecting the confirmation. I have a long distance call in for him at Tulsa, but have been unable to get him for the last hour. I suppose he is out showing old man Walker the \$2,500,000 Cushing property. Should he succeed in selling that I shall simply float away on air. People seem to think our promotion project has some merit too, or else they are convinced by Culbertson's salesmanship. We got 27500 yesterday and sixty so far today. If it comes at the rate of 5000 per day we can pay rent any way if we never drill a well.

If Morgan makes his sale we shall be so far on easy street that I can come out strong for the oil business. Nearly

MORGAN & COMPANY

OIL INVESTMENTS

SUITE 703 NEW RIDGE ARCADE

KANSAS CITY, MO.,

Every person I have talked with lately is interested in some kind of an oil deal. I nearly bust to tell what kind of one I'm in and then don't.

I have had a small war with the Standard in the last two days. They are putting down a pipe line across us and I gave them orders not to come in until they'd paid crop damage. They came any way and I told the hired man to tell em we'd have slot guns on deck this morning and the contractor refused to go to work. They had an adjuster out there in a hurry but I'm in town. He's coming to see me. I am hoping to get enough out of him to buy some more gasoline for Lippa, then I'll bring your dog home. I have been calling him Don Juan of Austria, but you can name him Tige or Caesar or any other that you wish if you consider the first not suitable. If you are an English sympathiser you would hardly call him after anything Austrian

MORGAN & COMPANY

OIL INVESTMENTS

SUITE 703 NEW RIDGE ARCADE

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Now if Don Juan was a Spanish Grandee.
You might call him Kitchen. (shorter Kitchen)
You could even name him Willy and be
Democratically right. Vella would be a grand
name. As I said before you use your
own judgement. Hope to see you Sunday,
and be so full of oil that I'll float.

Sincerely
Harry.



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY NINTH
FIELD ARTILLERY

Dear Bess:-

I got your picture last night and I have had such a wide smile on since that everyone has remarked about it. It is sure a speaking likeness and I really can't tell you how glad I am to have it. Unless you'd come yourself you could have sent me nothing that I'd like better.

Otto has just handed me your letter and I admit that I deserve a call down but I can only plead work from six A.M. til ten P.M. We had a pay day Wednesday and you can guess what that meant to me. I counted money until my head ached. Changed \$5000.00 into ten dollar bills in about a day and never lost a penny. Today I had to go to the trenches and dig or see to the digging and also have some timbers cut down. We are under the direction of a French officer and actually playing a real war game. It is very interesting but also very hard work.

The piano you have asked me about so often and which I have failed to tell you

about (because I didn't know my self!)
was drawn by someone out on the south
side in Kansas City I can't remember the
name because I've never heard it but
once but I'll find out from the 1st Sgt of
the Supply Company and tell you. If there
are other questions I've left unanswered it,
by accident and not intention. The pictures
are not done because picture paper is
not obtainable, so the photo man tells me, but
we are expecting them any day.

That's a grand rumor going the rounds
and I hope it's true I'll do my best to come
home Christmas if I'm not in Minnola N. Y. or
Savannah Ga or somewhere else loading men
and supplies for France. Tom McGuire started
the rumor down here that Gen Berry wouldn't
let me go home to my own wedding on the
seventh and I have an idea that Hines or
Bostian wrote it home and someone has
fixed it up to suit the occasion and as I
think it should be. To be honestly frank though
I've come to the conclusion that Gen Berry
wouldn't let one of us go home to his
~~own~~ own funeral let alone a grand oc-

casión like his wedding. Our new mess
sergeant is sending you an invitation to
be present at our Thanksgiving dinner and
I do wish you could be. I am figuring on
every line of talk there is to get me loose
for a trip home but I doubt very much if
I can make it.

Yesterday and today have been very
grand days both because your photo
and letter came. In fact yesterday is
really a reckoning day, one to which I
can refer as the day on which I received
something that I most highly prize. Those
I have not failed to answer everything I should.
Tell your mother I am looking for that man
and will send her his name when I have
found one that will properly appreciate the
nice package she will send. Write me as
often as you can and come to our dinner
if you can. Had you have come down the
other day you'd not have had to be any waitress
or waiting maid either nor would I have done
any dodging. Yours
Harry.



HUCKINS HOTELS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Dear Boss:-

I am at Oklahoma City this time sure enough. Wried you this afternoon. I am like a parrot out of his cage. We have been hitting it up at such a rate down at Camp that some of us almost have nervous prostration. The Scottish Rite are putting a class through and Gen. Wright issued a bulletin allowing 4 day passes to gather. It came out yesterday morning and was revoked at noon. I got mine before the cancellation intending to go to KC on it but after they recalled the privilege I thought perhaps



HUCKINS HOTELS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

I'd better not risk it. They are always hunting for some good excuse to send a N. G. officer and if they should suddenly take a fool notion to call me at Guthrie and I not be there it would be all up but the signing. It is most surely a disappointment because I was planning on stepping into your front hall this evening at about 7:30 and perhaps causing you heart failure for one minute any way. I have been doing squads east & squads sideways arms up and hands down until I can't open my mouth without telling



HUCKINS HOTELS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Someone to straighten up on
gettin step. Hold your head up
Look at the back of the head of the
man in front of you if he isn't
there look any way. This ground's
livel you won't fall down if you
don't get your feet tangled. — — —
X X straighten up, step out like
a man, put some snap into etc
etc ad lib. Then after some ham
or so of that I go count nickels and
dimes up to 40000 a day more or less.
I guess I should be very proud of
my Jewish shifty. My thirst emporium
is the only one in camp that's open.
The rest are insolvent or can't



HUCKINS HOTELS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

make a clear statement of their financial standing.

I am going to forget drill book exercise and all of it for three days anyway and occupy my mind on higher things. Perhaps that won't hurt me any because I have acquired an ability to swear like Sam Jones or Capt Kidd, and there may be a high reckoning on it some time. I think not soon.

We have exams every Saturday. I have passed every time yet but the next one I'll probably blow upon. The Hotel is full of soldiers and first lieutenants. Some going to get their



HUCKINS HOTELS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

and some going to the school of
five and some I fear just playing
hookey. I sure wish I could have
happened in this evening, but I
can't. I look for a letter every
mail even if I don't send one.

Yours always
Harry.



Dear Bess:- May 5 1918

I wrote you this morning and got another letter this afternoon dated April 6 in which you said you had my last letter from New York. I sent you an Easter package from New York too. I hope you got it.

I am glad you got into communication with George Arransmith's fiancée. We are not supposed to talk much about our comrades but since you know it George is in the same room with me along with three other first Lieuts of 129th F.A. We are a very congenial bunch and everyone is sure happy today because Jack got a letter from his lady love in St Louis, Walter got one

from his in Kansas City Pat
got one from his in Red Lodge
Montana and George & I got one
from Independence. I have been
slighted today because each of the
others got two. I think my one
though was worth more than
all the rest put together. You're
no idea how high I jumped when
I got it. That's getting mail mighty
quickly from 6 of April to 5 of May.

I told you this morning that I
dreamed I was at a show with
you and your letter came wishing
I was at one with you instead of
you're going to a W.W. club meeting.
I am writing every time I get a
chance but it looks as if school
days are so busy I can't do much
writing during the week but I hope
to make it up on Sunday and

any off days we get. I hope you have better luck
calling mamma up next time. I had a letter
from her Friday along with yarn three dated Mar
26, 27, 28 and it nearly made me homesick. She
doesn't write very often but she sure does write well
when she does. We work so hard during the week we
don't have time to think of anything but work. Sundays
are sure dull though if we don't get letters to read.

Be sure and write and keep writing and I'll
do the same. We sure appreciate letters and more
letters from home. France is France and a grand
place for Frenchmen. I don't blame them for fighting
for it and I'm for helping them but give me America
Missouri and Jackson County for mine with the finest
girl in the world at the county seat. French girls are
pretty & chic but they cannot hold a candle to American
girls. Every man in this room agrees with me too.

It's raining today for a change after starting out
with a grand sunrise and a fine morning. We've
seen the sun about four days since we've been in
France. The weather doesn't bother us much but
I'll bet a Frenchman would suffocate if he got into
a heated room. They're never warm from September
till June. They thrive on it though. Be sure and
write to me much & often for I can always put in
another week happily if I get at least one letter. The
more the better. I'm sure crazy to see you.

129 Fa usa.

A. E. F. France
Via New York

Yours always
Harry

Angers France
June 14 1918

Dear Bess:-

I am back with the regiment and a sure enough Captain. Have been it seems some six weeks. I'll have about a bushel and a half of francs back pay coming next pay day. I reckon I can go out and have a real time with it. I just barely slipped through the artillery school as did some of the others. One or two made names for themselves and were promoted out of the regiment as instructors, which means that they'll be second lieutenants until the end of the war, and that they'll not get to the front. I am very glad that I did not make any such record. I am the Adjutant of the second Battalion 129 Fa. A right hefty job and one that gives me precedence over all the Battery captains even if they do outrank me. I've got to organize

a regimental school and teach the balance of the officers what I learned (which won't be a whole lot)

I had another grand trip across France coming back to the regiment. It is certainly a beautiful country. They wouldn't let us go to Paris but I saw Orleans and the famous statue of Joan and a beautiful Cathedral that has been standing about a thousand years.

The railroad runs right down the valley of the Loire the famous dividing line between the ancient factions in French politics. You know all south of that river were for Henry of Navarre and all north of it were Catholic. This town is the capital of ancient Anjou of which one of the brothers of the King of France was always Duke. There is a castle here that Mary de Medici was imprisoned in and from which she made a very dramatic escape only to be caught again right outside of it. There are also

many beautiful chateaux around here. Solitary as was to be expected is quartered alone. I am going into town today and see what it's like.

We are billeted around at little villages with French people and I hope to learn some French. Major Gates and I have two grand rooms at a little wayside inn. The beds have canopies over them and a step ladder is needed to get into them. The floors are of tile and not very pleasant to stand on without any shoes. The regiment is scattered all over five square miles. I nearly walked my legs off paying visits to various places ~~now~~ where the batteries are quartered. Col Klemm, Col Elliott and everyone is here except Captain Olney. We need some sort of transportation but Jackson will walk for a while yet.

I have been working my head off the last two days trying to get things organized in the Btn office and I guess it will be two days more before I get it done.

I am writing this letter before breakfast. Major Gates is in the next room and keeps talking to me so I can hardly write. He does n't know I'm writing. I got two letters from you when I got to the regiment and you may be sure I want that kid glove shirt. I am enclosing the request and shall expect to get it about August first if the ship does n't go down. Please keep on writing as some of your letters are bound to arrive.

I will write a longer letter tomorrow. I think of you always. Counted the leaves on a locust limb the other day and they said "this year" which I am hoping is right.

Yours always
Harry S.

Harry S. Truman
Capt. Adj. and Btn 149 Fa
American E. F.

Somewhere in Parlevous.
Sept 1, 1918.

Dear Bess:-

I am the most pleased person in the world this morning. I got two letters from you and have accomplished my greatest wish. Have fired 500 rounds at the Germans, at my command, been shelled, didn't run away thank the Lord and never lost a man. Probably shouldn't have told you but you'll not worry any more if you know I'm in it than if you think I am. Have had the most strenuous week of my life, am very tired but otherwise absolutely in good condition physically mentally and morally.

It has been about two weeks since I've written you because I haven't had the chance. They shipped me

from school to the front in charge
of Battery D and the Irish seem to be
pleased over it. We went into position
right away and fired 500 rounds at them
in 36 minutes. Two of my guns got stuck
in the mud it was dark and raining and
before I could get away they came the
reply. I sent two of the pieces to safety
the horses on the other two broke away and
ran every which direction but my Irishmen
stayed with me except a few drivers who
were badly scared and my first sqt.
We covered up the two guns I had stuck,
with branches and things. ~~One~~ and one of
my lieutenants - Hoareholder is his
name and my self then collected up
all the horses we could and got the
men together caught up with the other
two pieces and went to safety. I slept
for 24 hours afterwards and am now
back of the line awaiting another chance.
I went back the next night and got my
guns. Every man wanted to go along but

I took only the two sections who belonged to the guns.

My greatest satisfaction is that my legs didn't succeed in carrying me away although they were very anxious to do it. Both of my Lieutenants are all good and a yard wide. One of them Jordan by name came back with the horses off the other two pieces to pull me out and I had to order him off the hill. Four horses were killed, two of them outright and two had to be shot afterwards.

I am in a most beautiful country and it seems like a shame that we must spread shells over it but as the French say Boche are dogs and should be killed. Please don't worry about me because no German shell is made that can hit me. One exploded in 15 feet of me and I didn't get a scratch so you can see I have them beaten there. I would give most anything to see you

this Sunday morning. The piece you
sent me about Mary is very fine. She
is a very old sister and I hope some
time to send her to Europe or any-
where else she wants to go in return
for running things as she has.

I am so sleepy I can't hardly
hold my eyes open but will write
again as soon as I can.
Keep writing, they are like stars ^{in the}
in the blue wave that rolls right by
on deep gulches (your letters) as
my pet poet says of the the Assyrians
(not a very appropriate application but
you know the meaning anyway)

Yours always

Harry

Remember me
to your mother
and George &
Frank and
May & Victor
Fred.

Harry Truman
Capt 129 Fa
American E.F.



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Oct 30 1918

Dear Bess:-

Your letter dated Oct 2
and Munked 28 came last night
and you may be very sure I was
more than glad to get it. We sit around
these battery positions and wait for
something to shoot at and make maps
and do so many things that are
necessary and a lot that are not
that I sometimes don't know straight
up from cross ways. You know the
battery commander is the man
to whom "the buck" is passed both
going up and coming down, and
he's got to watch his P's + I's mighty
smartly if they don't succeed

in getting something on him.

So far I have been very lucky in that I have had no one gassed, have not been shelled in any of my positions (and I've occupied several in the last month) and I haven't shot up our infantry yet - at least I haven't done it so they could catch me at it. I went out to the front line trenches yesterday and adjusted my battery for range and deflection in ten shots. It used to take at least 48 when I was at school. But when you know that some Hun plane is just laying for you to catch you shooting, so he can run home and tell a gas battery about you, it does not take so long nor so many shots to adjust with as you'd use under other conditions. There is an old

battery of 155 long guns across the road from me whose date of manufacture was so long ago that no one knows it. They shoot gas at the Hun every time he fires this way and it seems that their work is very effective because the Hun usually ceases to fire when this antiquated outfit starts. The Frenchmen say that the old guns shoot very accurately. I have paper windows in my dugout and the concussion from the guns has completely ruined it. You should see the Palace I live in. It is a different one from that in which I was when I wrote you last. I have a very large arched room which contains the battery kitchen. On one side I have a small room with a stove, a table a chair, some boxes, a lot of maps and firing tables and other necessary Battery Commander junk. On the other I have a sleeping apartment with room for myself + two lieutenants and a stove. The battery is up the road a couple of hundred meters and so well hidden that I can't find it myself after dark sometimes. I have a telephone right at my bedside and one on my desk so that when messages and things are called for I can be immediately informed. I have all the comforts of home except that I'll have such a habit of sleeping underground that I'll have to go to the cellar to sleep when I get home.

I was in the most famous war town in France today, unless it's the one where the Kings of France were



cramped. I walked in and I've never seen a more desolate sight. Trees that were once most beautiful forest trees are stumps with naked branches sticking out making them look like ghosts. The ground is simply one mass of shell holes. They say the Hun shot them 1000000 a day when he was trying, under the Crown Prince to come through. The French simply put 75's hut to hut and moved them down like hay when they started across. When I arrived in town there was not a building that hadn't a shell hole in it, although the old arched gateway is still standing just as it always has. Both towers of the cathedral are still

intact but the rest of it is a mass of ruins. There is not a civilian in town nothing but soldiers, mostly Yanks.

When I was going in I saw some railway guns firing. They can shoot 15 or 20 miles and not start to strain their ability to shoot. I am hoping that these are sending messages to Metz.

The news sure looks well today. When Austria begs our Grand President for the privilege of peace it really looks like something. I'm for peace but that gang should be given a bayonette peace and be made to pay for what they've done to France.

I am sure that this desolate country was cultivated and beautiful like the rest of France and now, why Sahara in Arizona would look like

Eden beside it. When the moon rises behind those tree trunks I spoke of while ago you can imagine that the ghosts of the 12 million Frenchmen who were slaughtered here are holding a sorrowful parade over the ruins. It makes you hope that His Satanic Majesty has a particularly hot poker and warm earner for Bill Hohenzollern when his turn comes to be judged and found wanting.

I am still bearing that charmed life and since Austria has quit I guess I'm a good man than 2 to 1 chance of getting home with it. I've been places though since I told you I had a charmed life that thoroughly convinced me I have. I attribute it to gamblers. Things that happened to us in the drive sure made believers out of most of us.

I wish I could have been at the Goss sale. It made me homesick to read of it. The clipping about Elmer and the one about Ralph and myself were interesting too. I saw Ralph the other day. I guess he'll be a Major soon. He's some officer. I can tell you a good story of him some day. If you think I have a charmed life (and I think I have) this is doubtly so far he got under our banage and the Hun's too.

I am just as homesick to see you as you can possibly be to see me. I hope the time is short when we'll see each other. I love you more and more and shall continue to be yours always
Harry Truman
Capt 129 Fa.

The German People Offers Peace.

The new German democratic government has this programme:

"The will of the people is the highest law."

The German people wants quickly to end the slaughter.

The new German popular government therefore has offered an

Armistice

and has declared itself ready for

Peace

on the basis of justice and reconciliation of nations.

It is the will of the German people that it should live in peace with all peoples, honestly and loyally.

What has the new German popular government done so far to put into practice the will of the people and to prove its good and upright intentions?

- a) The new German government has appealed to President Wilson to bring about peace.

It has recognized and accepted all the principles which President Wilson proclaimed as a basis for a general lasting peace of justice among the nations.

- b) The new German government has solemnly declared its readiness to evacuate Belgium and to restore it.

- c) The new German government is ready to come to an honest understanding with France about.

Alsace-Lorraine.

- d) The new German government has restricted the **U-boat War.**

No passengers steamers not carrying troops or war material will be attacked in future.

- e) The new German government has declared that it will withdraw all German troops back over the German frontier.

- f) — The new German government has asked the Allied Governments to name commissioners to agree upon the practical measures of the evacuation of Belgium and France.

These are the deeds of the new German popular government. Can these be called mere words, or bluff, or propaganda?

Who is to blame, if an armistice is not called now?

Who is to blame if daily thousands of brave soldiers needlessly have to shed their blood and die?

Who is to blame, if the hitherto undestroyed towns and villages of France and Belgium sink in ashes?

Who is to blame, if hundreds of thousands of unhappy women and children are driven from their homes to hunger and freeze?

The German people offers its hand for peace.

Here is a real battle-field souvenir. It came from a German plane yesterday. I have a helmet for you too that I got off a dead German the first day of the drive.

Le peuple allemand offre la paix.

Le nouveau gouvernement démocratique de l'Allemagne agit en conformité avec le principe:

»La volonté du peuple est la loi suprême«.

Le peuple allemand veut amener une fin rapide des massacres.

Le nouveau gouvernement du peuple allemand a pour cette raison offert
l'armistice

et s'est déclaré prêt à une

paix

du droit et de la conciliation des peuples.

C'est la volonté du peuple allemand de vivre honnêtement et loyalement en paix avec tous les autres peuples.

Le nouveau gouvernement du peuple allemand qu'a-t-il fait jusqu'à présent pour réaliser la volonté du peuple et pour prouver ses bonnes intentions sincères?

A) **Le nouveau gouvernement allemand a demandé au président Wilson d'amener la paix.**

Il a expressément reconnu et accepté les principes que le président Wilson a proclamés comme la base d'une paix de droit générale et durable parmi les peuples.

B) **Le nouveau gouvernement allemand s'est solennellement déclaré prêt à évacuer et dédommager la Belgique.**

C) **Le nouveau gouvernement allemand veut en toute loyauté s'accorder avec la France au sujet de l'Alsace-Lorraine.**

D) **Le gouvernement allemand a modifié la guerre sous-marine en ce sens que des à présent les vapeurs servant au transport des voyageurs ne peuvent plus être attaqués, pour autant qu'ils ne transportent pas des troupes ou du matériel de guerre.**

E) **Le nouveau gouvernement allemand a déclaré vouloir retirer toutes les troupes allemandes derrière les frontières allemandes.**

F) **Le nouveau gouvernement allemand a demandé aux gouvernements adversaires, de constituer des négociateurs pour s'accorder au sujet de la réalisation pratique de l'évacuation de la Belgique et de la France.**

Voilà ce que le nouveau gouvernement du peuple allemand a fait! Y peut-on voir des phrases creuses? Est-ce là du bluff ou de la propagande?

A qui la faute, si dans ces circonstances l'armistice ne sera pas conclu?

A qui la faute, si tous les jours des milliers de braves soldats verseront encore leur sang et tomberont sous les balles?

A qui la faute, si les villes et les villages de la Belgique et de la France qui ont échappé jusqu'à présent à la destruction, tomberont en ruines?

A qui la faute, si des centaines de milliers de femmes malheureuses et l'enfants seront chassés de leurs domiciles et exposés à la famine et au froid?

Le peuple allemand tend la main pour la paix.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



Dear Boss:

Nov 1 1918

I have just finished putting 1800 shells over on the Germans in the last five hours. They don't seem to have had energy enough to come back yet. I don't think they will. One of their airmen fell right behind my battery yesterday and sprained his ankle, histed up the machine and got completely picked by the French and Americans in the neighborhood. They even tried to take thier (there were two in the machine) coats. One of our officers I am ashamed to say took the boots off of the one with the sprained ankle and kept them.

The French and Americans too far that matter are souvenier crazy. If a

guard had not been placed over the machine I don't doubt that it would have been carried away bit by bit. What I started to say was that the German Lt. yelled *Le guerre finis* as soon as he stepped from the machine. He then remarked that the war would be over in ten days. I don't know what he knew about it or what anyone else knows but I am sure that most Americans will be glad when it's over and they can get back to God's Country again. It is a great thing to swell your chest out and fight for a principle but it gets a mighty tiresome some times. I heard a Frenchman remark that Germany was fighting for territory, England for the sea France for patriotism and Americans for souvenirs. Yesterday



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



made me think he was about right. 191
I got a letter of Commendation, capital C, from the Commanding General of the 35th Division. The Ordnance Repair Dept. made a report to him that I had the best conditioned guns after the drive that he had seen in France. The Gen. wrote me a letter about it. My chief mechanic is to blame not me. He knows more about guns than the French themselves. As usual in such cases the CO gets the credit. I think I shall put an endorsement on the letter stating the abilities of my chief mechanic, and stick it in the file anyway.

I am going to keep the original
letter for my own personal and
private use. It will be nice to have
some day if some low haired north
end politician tries to remark that
I was n't in the war when I'm
running for eastern judge or some
thing. I'll have the papers and can
shut him up. If ever I get home
from this war~~ing~~ whole (I shall) I am
going to be perfectly happy to follow
a mule down a corn row the
balance of my days - that is always
providing ~~it~~ such an arrangement
is also of pleasure to you. I think
the green pastures of Grand Old
Missouri are the best looking
of any that I have seen in this
world yet and I've seen several
hands. The outlook I have now is



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



191

a rather dreary one. There are Frenchmen buried in my front yard and Huns in the back yard and both litter up the landscape as far as you can see. Everytime a Boche shell hits in a field over west of here it digs up a piece of someone! It is well I'm not troubled by spooks.

I walked out to the OP the other day (yesterday) to pick an adjusting point and I found two little flowers alongside the trench blooming right in the rock. I am enclosing them. The sisters would say that they came from the battle scared field of Verdun. They

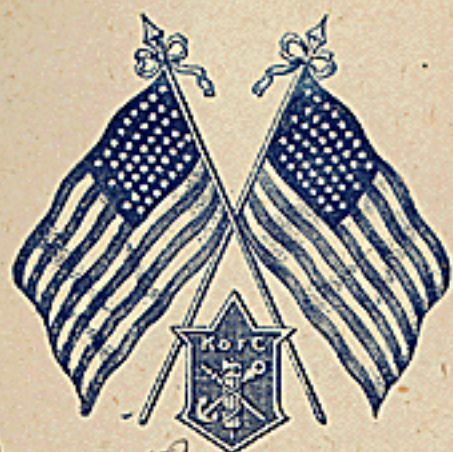
were in sight and short range of Keine
and were not far from the two most
famous parts of this line of defense.
You can keep them or throw them
away but I thought they'd be something.
One's a poppy the other is a pink and
something of the kind. A real solicitor
could write a volume about the struggle
of these pretty little flowers under the
frowning brows of Donau about the un-
pregnable.

Please keep writing for I look
for letters eagerly even if I don't write
them as often as I should.

I love you

Always
Harry Truman
Sept. 1295
American E.F.

Knights of Columbus
OVERSEAS SERVICE



**ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

A.P.O. *Camp La Beholle*
Near Verdun
DATE *Jan. 21 1919*

Dear Bess:-

Your grand letter of Dec 16 came last night and of course I was as happy as a kid with a bonbon. I am so glad you had a happy white Christmas. It is a good omen I'm sure and I sincerely hope that this will be an unheeded of ailment from this time forward. Your point is well taken regarding the furniture in my room at the Hotel Medeterrannee (can't spell it). It would of course be essential to provide either a place to eat or a range. I am very sure that I shouldn't have overlooked a vital point like that even if I am blinded by Eros. My experiences to date have taught me most emphatically that it is very very essential that food be provided in plentiful quantities even if clothing has to be overlooked sometimes. Some of my men have been pretty close to nature at various times as to clothes but if there happened to be plenty of roast beef and baked beans it was

a happy bunch. But leave off the cats
for a meal or two and it made one
"h- of a mean man" to put it as they
do. Therefore I won't overlook that end of it
nor any other I hope. The stationary Jerye
and May gave you is simply grand and it
makes me sorry to have to answer it on
this kind but even this hand is at a high
premium here. I think Mary's picture is
pretty fine myself. You know I have two
best pockets in my blouse. Naturally you
can guess whose picture stays in the left
hand one. I keep Mary's and mamma's in the
other. Yours is the one you sent me at
Dorchester and it has never left me from
that day to this nor will it ever. It's been
through all the trials and tribulations and
happy moments same as I have. I have looked
at it many many times and imagined that
you were there in spirit as I know you were
and it's helped a lot especially when things
were blue and it would look as if I'd surely
blow up if another thing went wrong. I've
never blown up and my disposition isn't
so very bad. ~~and~~ That picture saved it. The
biggest worry I've ever had was when I
heard that the original of that picture had
the "flu" and the happiest day was when
that letter came saying you'd walked up

Knights of Columbus
OVERSEAS SERVICE



**ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

A.P.O. _____

DATE _____

town. I am hoping that Nie will not be an impossibility to us and I don't believe it will. You did right to send your proxy to Boxley. He is to be trusted absolutely.

We are having another spasm of moving. There have been orders out twice to move us back to a dirty little old French village but each time Gen. Berry has been able to get them canceled, because we have better quarters here than we can possibly get in a town. I suppose though that we'll go this time. I heard a real good rumor the other day. To show you how they start I'll just trace this one for you. An ordnance sergeant (get that ordnance) who was overhauling F. Bty's guns told the Lt. who went after them that his own commanding officer, a Lt. had been told by the General's aide that our guns were being overhauled so that they could be turned in at Le Mans on

Jan 27 which happens to be the Kaiser's birthday (so he said) and then we'd all go home. Now the whole foundation for that nice tale was the definite order for us to move back to a little old village and be billeted not far from Bar-le-Duc and about 40 miles from here. It's my opinion that we'll stay there until Woodie gets his pet peace plans refused or OK'd. For my part, and every AEF man feels the same way I don't give a whoop (to put it mildly) whether there's a baguette of nations or whether Russia has a Red Government or a Purple one and if the President of the Czechs-Slovaks wants to pry the throne from under the King of Bohemia let him pry but send us home. We came over here to help whip the Hun. We helped a little, the Hun yowled for peace and he's getting it in large doses and if our most excellent ex-mayor of Toledo wants to make a hit with us he'll hire or buy some ships and put the Atlantic Ocean between us and the Vin Rouge Sea. For my part I've had enough Vin Rouge and Frogater rituals to last me a lifetime. And anyway it looks to me like the Moon shine business is going to be pretty good in the land of Liberty Loans and Green Trading stamps and some of us want to get in on

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**ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

A.P.O.

DATE

the ground floor. At least we want to get there in time to lay in a supply for future consumption. I think a quart of Bouillon would last me about forty years.

I hope you have a most happy birthday and that you never see another one without me to help celebrate and then may they go on without end. Remember me to your mother and Fred and Frank and Watake and Joyce and May and just keep writing when you feel inclined because I love you.

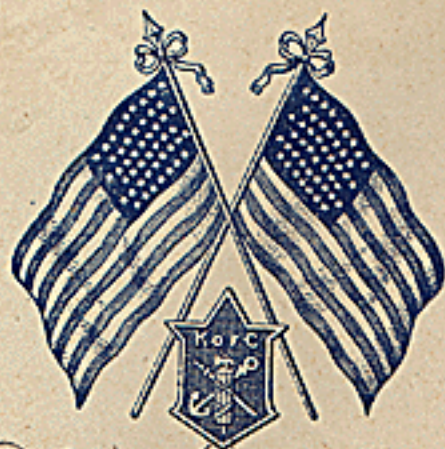
Harry Thurman Always

Capt. Bty 8129 Fa

American E.F.

Harry.

Knights of Columbus
OVERSEAS SERVICE



**ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

A.P.O. Rocieres, France
Near Bar le Due
DATE Feb. 25 1919

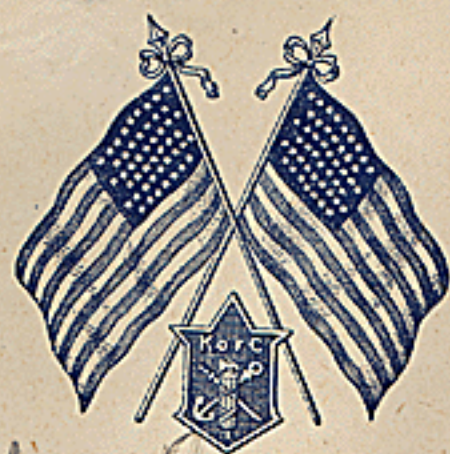
Dear Bess:-

I scored again today. Got a letter from you and it had a Hershey in it praise be. Of course the letter is a joy forever but a letter and a Hershey - well its worth two praise be's and several thank-yous. We cant obtain Hersheys over here and in my opinion there's hardly any chocolate that equals it for flavor and satisfaction. We get a brand over here that's made by an old party named Menier. It's called Chocolat Menier and its like Walter Bakers brand that you put in cakes only its sweet. I hope you'll enclose that stunt, and do it often.

Yes we are ordered to Le Mans and are scheduled to sail April 20 1919. But don't put too much faith in that date because such festivals are movable and

not fixed. If we should not succeed
in getting our men altered to fit their
service records it may require an un-
reeling of pink tape to such an extent
that he'd be delayed thirty days. What's
a mere 30 days to G. H. I. (which some say
means get home quick - I doubt it myself).
There's also a new General Order out, to the
effect that all battery and company com-
manders whose funds are messed up will
be detached from their organizations and
held in France until a proper balance
is struck. Now they may reach out and
yank me off the gang plank just as I'm
getting aboard in order to have me un-
tangle my money from the company's
but if they do I'll be much richer by
some hundred of francs. You know
a battery commander has as many
duties and as much prying around
to do as the chairwoman of a Ladies'
Aid; besides having to write to various
wives, widows, mothers, sisters, cousins
aunts and parin laws as to the general
health and financial condition of Privates
James William O'Grady, Keene and O'Toole
you're got to keep 'em clothed and fed. If
they lose their clothes or trade in for

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**ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

A.P.O. _____

DATE _____

Vin Rouge and don't make em pay
for the loss the B.C.'s stuck. If your
reservation goes up in Willie's stew
by a cause, mess sergeant the B.C. saw
at the battery find gets tangled the B.C.
says etc etc ad lib. One kid I have
refused to write to his mother because
Uncle Sam fined him \$60.00 for going
A.W.O.L. to see her and I got a letter
from the Commanding General of the
Second Army wanting to know why I
didn't make him write her. Well he did
all right, all right but he wound up
his epistle by saying he was only doing
it because the Captain would put him
in the jug if he didn't, and I let it go
because it was true.

They are n't all like that though. I
have an overwhelming majority I would
n't trade for a million dollars. They have

real Irish hearts and they love
their mother and sweet heart just
that way. Some letters to mother I've
censored are masterpieces and I
know they are meant because I know
the men.

I don't think there's any of them though
who are as deeply in love as their
own Captain to whom they turn their
troubles and I guess that's why he can
sympathize with them.

Please write as often as you can
to one who loves you madly.

Always yours
Hamm

Hampden
Captain 129 Pa.
American E.F.

DISTRICT OF PARIS
AMERICAN OFFICERS' HOTEL
(HOTEL DU LOUVRE)

AUTHORIZED BY
THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF A. E. F.

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March 24 1919

Dearest Bess:-

I am as you can see by the
stationary in Paris again. It took a right
good conversation and some maneuvering
to land me here but I got to come and
bring three of my sergeants along with
me. All the officers who came over first
have trunks at the American Express
Company. Someone had to come and
get them. I succeeded in getting my
Battery Fund and my personal ac-
count rolled up so that a Philadel-
phia lawyer could not tell which
is my money and which is the
Battery's. You know French book
keeping is a deep dark mystery

and they had credited me with battery
money and the battery with mine.
Charged my checks to the battery and
the battery's to me, and had done it
without favor to either side, but
it fixed the accounts so you could
not tell head or tail. I had to
come up here and draw the whole
of both accounts and put my money
in one pocket and the battery's in
another. When the baggage trip came up
why my having an account to fix and
trunks also got me the job. I asked for
help and they gave me three sergeants
Naturally I thought them of my own.
I let em draw for it and just to show
you my battery's not entirely Irish
Tierney, Cheney and Seiben men!

I hired a taxi and took em right
seeing today. I'm afraid they were

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more interested in the girls than the sights, but they pretended to be very much impressed with Notre Dame and Napoleon's tomb. We also went to see the Pantheon de la Guerre which is a grand painting of the war. It's about fifty feet high and is painted around the inside of a circular building about 100 feet in diameter. I'd judge the picture to be 300 feet long if it was stretched out. The back ground shows all the battle fields of France beginning at the Belgian coast and running to the Vosges. In the foreground are life sized pictures of the heroes, presidents, generals etc. A section is devoted to each country. Ours of course has Woodrow, Josephus Newton D. and Gen. Pershing along with the various Admirals and generals

wise had on the fighting line. The
British shows George V. and the sweet
little Prince de Wales along with Admiral
Beatty Marshal Haig and other British
lights and heavy lights. It takes a
set of ~~set~~ steps to show all the French
while only a narrow margin is de-
voted to Japan and Portugal. People
will come from the ends of the earth
to see it when traffic in tourists is
resumed. France has to do something
to get American money after it is
gone. I'm for the French anyway. They
fought and died more than all the
rest of the world (except poor old Russia)
and if they want to bleed a little money
out of us I'm for em. If you could see
Verdun and Chemain des Dames where
more Frenchmen were killed than
we ever had men on the front you'd
sure be glad to help em anyway you
can. They do say that the Germans are
treating our men so well that the

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whole Army of Occupation will go
home German sympathizers. It's a
peculiar human trait I guess to for-
get Belgium and ruined and devastated
France, forget the Lusitania and
the ruthless cruelty of the Huns and
remember only that they gave us
feather beds when we went among them
as conquerors and the French gave us
bays although the we came to help
them. The French gave their own soldiers
bays too. We'll remember that the French
raised prices on us yet our own
patriotic citizens did us the same way
at Canton and in New York. For my
part I hope the great things of France
will be remembered and the small ones
forgotten, that the awful cruelties and
atrocious treatment of Belgium and

and Northern France will be remembered
and the pie and feather beds forgotten
in Germany's case.

Well Paris is Paris and a great place
to be if you were only here too. But I
wouldn't give a certain Jackson County
Missouri farm I know of for the whole
— town, with the rest of France thrown
in for good measure. I saw the hats
of the Archbishops of Paris who were beheaded
in the Revolution today also a lot of the
personal equipment of the Great Napoleon.
His tomb is all clear of sandbags now
and is the most beautiful place of the
kind I ever saw. A man had to raise
a lot of sand in this world to get
planted as handsomely as he is. You
can't imagine what a beautiful place
it is. The sarcophagus itself is of red
granite or some kind of red stone polished
till a fly can't stand on it. It
stands in a circle beneath a great
golden dome. There are statues of Victory

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and all the other Goddesses holding out
weather to the dead Emperor. The building
itself is as large as a church and is of
the finest Corinthian architecture.

Jerome Napoleon and Joseph are
also buried there. So are Marshal
Turenne and Kautz. There are
two empty rooms which I guess
are being saved for Marshals Joffe
and Foch. All Napoleons captured
flags are around his tomb and there
are a great many of them.

I had my photograph by one the ser-
geants in front of the Arc de Triomphe
and also on the Pont Alexandre III which
is the finest bridge across the Seine.

We are going to sail about April
15th nothing interfering and I hope

most sincerely that nothing does.
I should see you about May 8th
or thereabouts.

Capt. Pete Allen has been sent
to the 4th Division and my good Lt
Jordan to the 1st. They are going to stay
in the army. I don't know how Pete
will square himself with Haring when
she finds he's not coming home for
another year. He did the proper thing
though because he got the best job
he ever had and he has ability and in-
clination in that direction.

I guess Klemm and Elliott are
home by now. God bless 'em. It looks
very much as if Lt Col Gates would
bring us home. I hope he does.

Write as often as you can to one
who's pining for you daily.

Love you always
Harry S. Truman
Capt 84th 8129 Fa
American E. F.

Camp Mills L.I.
April 24 1919

Dear Bess:

I have been in America just four days and I have been so busy just looking at the place and getting some honest to goodness food under my belt that I haven't had time to do anything else.

I had the most miserable ten days coming over that I've spent in this war. We had a fine boat, hand crew and crew used before but she was empty except for our baggage and ourselves and she did some rolling. I am not a good sailor and you can guess the harrowing details. Of course I could get no sympathy. My own battery laughed at me. I lost about twenty pounds (and I can afford to lose it). For a time I wished most sincerely that

I could go back to the Argonne Forest and at least die honorably. I am barely over it now and I fear that I am gaining in weight.

I've never seen anything that looked so good as the Liberty Bell in New York Harbor and the Mayor's Welcoming Boat which came down the river to meet us. You know the men have seen so much and been in so many hard places that it takes something real to give them a thrill, but when the band that had played "Home Sweet Home" there were not very many dry eyes. The hardiest of hard boiled cookies even had to blot his nose a time or two. Every relief organization in America met us and gave us something. The Jews gave us handkerchiefs, the YMCA chocolate, the K.C.'s cigarettes, the Red Cross, real home made

cape and the Salvation Army. God bless them, sent
telegrams free and gave us Easter Eggs made of choc-
olate. They took us off the boat at Pier No 1 in Hoboken
fed us till we wouldn't hold any more, put us
on a ferry and sent us to Camp Mills where they
gave us a bath and lots of new clothes, the first
some of the men have had since they joined. Then
we made a raid on the canteens and free shows.
I'll bet ten barrels wouldn't hold the ice cream
consumed that first evening. It was so free that I
didn't connect until the next day but I've been
going strong ever since.

I was down on Broadway night before last with
Major Miles and Major Wilson and stopped in at an
ice cream joint and whom do you suppose asked
me if I belonged to the 35th Division? Stella Serape.
She asked me where I was from what regiment I
belonged to and then if I knew you before she told me
who she was. I was somewhat embarrassed but man-
aged to tell her. She was with a sailor but didn't
introduce him.

I am so crazy to get home that I'm about to go
A.W.O.L. but I guess I'd better not set my Dick a bad
example at this late day. We hope to leave here day after
tomorrow for Kansas City where we parade. They'd better
keep Klemm out of that parade too.

I hope you'll forgive me for not writing often
while here but it's just so good to have G.H. under
my feet that I have to look at it somewhat. My
Dad gave me an Italian dinner at his sister's
house last night - yards and yard of spaghetti, chicken
and dumplings, rabbit and peas and all the trimmings
I nearly powdered myself. Hope to see you soon and hope
no for lost time.
Sincerely, Harry

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
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RECEIVED AT 97KS CE 9

CAMP MILLS NY 1258 P APRIL 30 1919

S MIS BESS WALLACE

219 DELAWARE ST INDEPENDENCE MO

LEAVING TODAY GLAD TO SEE YOU AT THE TRAIN

HARRY

225PM